



● ROUTINE

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~~SECRET~~

DIST 15 MARCH 1974

1.

1.5(c)

2.

COMMENT

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ISSUED A CIRCULAR ON
JANUARY TO ALL MILITARY UNITS, PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE HANDLING AND HUMAN TREATMENT OF DETAINEES.)

3. SINCE THE CIRCULAR WAS ISSUED, A STRONG REACTION

SECRET 2732 -2543

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE JUN 11 1999

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

AGAINST IT HAS BEEN GROWING AMONG MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICERS IN THE ARMY. THE OFFICERS CONSIDER THE CIRCULAR TO BE AN INDICATION OF WEAKNESS AND THEY BELIEVE THAT A FAILURE TO CONDUCT AN AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MARXIST EXTREMISTS WILL ONLY INCREASE THE DANGERS FACED BY THE GOVERNMENT FROM THE EXTREMIST SECTOR. WHILE THE CIRCULAR WAS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, THE OFFICERS GENERALLY ATTRIBUTE ITS AUTHORSHIP TO GENERAL OSCAR BONILLA, MINISTER OF INTERIOR

4. SOME OFFICERS OF GENERAL RANK SUPPORT THE YOUNGER OFFICERS IN OPPOSITION TO THE CIRCULAR. GENERAL SERGIO A R E L L A N O, COMMANDER OF THE SECOND DIVISION, HAS UNOFFICIALLY ADVISED THE OFFICERS IN HIS COMMAND THAT THEY ARE TO IGNORE THE CIRCULAR AND TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE REIGOROUSLY AGAINST EXTREMISTS. IN ADDITION, MANY UNIT LEVEL COMMANDERS HAVE REACTED BY ATTACKING ^A CONVENIENT TARGET, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC), WHICH MANY OFFICERS IDENTIFY AS A FAVORITE OF BONILLA. **COMMENT:** ATTACKS ON THE PDC PROBABLY REFER TO HARASSMENT OF PDC MEMBERS AND LOWER LEVEL LEADERS (EITHER IN THE POOR HOUSING AREAS OR IN THE FACTORIES.)

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5. [REDACTED]

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

1.5 (c)

6. MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BELIEVE THAT THE POLICIES OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE ACTING AS BRAKES ON THE ARMED FORCES' ACTION AGAINST THE EXTREMIST THREAT IN CHILE. SELECTIVE ACTIONS BY THE MILITARY AGAINST EXTREMISTS, SUCH AS ROUGH INTERROGATIONS AND SOME EXECUTIONS, CONTINUE AT UNIT LEVELS, BUT ON A NON-OFFICIAL BASIS.

COMMENT: ONLY KNOWN EXTREMISTS, SUCH AS BAUTISTA VON SCHWEN, LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR), HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. THERE IS UPSET, PARTICULARLY AT THE MIDDLE RANKS OF THE ARMY, OVER THE NEED TO CONDUCT ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTERTERRORIST CAMPAIGN IN A NON-OFFICIAL MANNER. ARMY OFFICERS GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE A STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION WITH THE SERVICE IF ANY UNIT COMMANDER WAS DISCIPLINED FOR PERMITTING OR CARRYING OUT SUCH ACTIONS.

7.

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1.5 (c)

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